

SECRET

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

15 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 1. Possible PNG of Mikhail Aleksandrovich  
MURNIKOV [ ]  
2. Heller GRABBI [ ]

1. After discussion with representatives of SB and CA/BI on 14 August, I met with [ ] and [ ] of the RCMP. I told them that we had reviewed the information available on this case, and there were a number of questions still bothering us.

2. First of all, why is MURNIKOV rather than another officer being selected for the PNG action? Isn't his tour about to end? And why is publicity desired in this case? [ ] said that publicity is the aim in this instance, and he surmised that it was because there had not been any good PNG publicity or anti-RIS publicity in Canada recently. In particular, as he understood it, the RCMP was eager to have publicity reflecting undesirable Soviet activities among emigres. The fact that MURNIKOV's tour is almost complete does not deter the RCMP, since their objective is not really to get rid of MURNIKOV. In fact, they have been rather concerned that MURNIKOV might depart PCS before the PNG action could be completed. And MURNIKOV himself was selected because he has indeed been involved with the emigre community.

3. I asked whether the RCMP didn't have any grounds better than GRABBI's information on which to base their action. [ ] immediate reaction was that there was no more substantial information on MURNIKOV. I indicated that we would be very envious if a PNG action should succeed on no more substantial grounds than these which did not appear to involve espionage or, really, subversion, and appeared to be only slightly different from USIA activities. After I

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE EMT HOOSE EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

SECRET

explained to him what USIA does, [ ] repeatedly asserted that MURNIKOV was, after all, attempting to "penetrate" the Estonian community in Canada. (I was unable to match his indignation.)

4. I asked [ ] whether the RCMP had followed up on any of GRABBI's leads, and he vaguely guessed that perhaps they have, but he was not sure. I asked if any information on MURNIKOV's activities among Estonians had been acquired by the RCMP independently and without reference to GRABBI's information. [ ] was not sure. I noted that one of the memoranda we have received from the RCMP made reference to the RCMP's concern about MURNIKOV's activities among emigres since 1965 and asked if this perhaps indicated independent information, since GRABBI only appeared on the scene in 1968. [ ] did not know whether anything other than overt contacts by MURNIKOV had been noted between 1965 and the appearance of GRABBI.

5. I explained to [ ] that we were concerned lest GRABBI's name should come up in the course of an investigation by an enterprising journalist after MURNIKOV's PNG was announced. Since the Department of External Affairs intended to make reference to MURNIKOV's activities among Estonian emigres, and since that community is small and tightly knit, it would not seem to be too difficult for a sharp newsman to get onto GRABBI's trail. And judging by GRABBI's inaccurate comments and reference to his indirect association with CIA and the FBI, it would not be surprising if GRABBI, in a misguided effort to protect his reputation, should claim to have been an agent for CIA. This would not please us, since GRABBI had been associated with both Juri RAUS and Erik HEINE, and although his relationships with them had no bearing on the legal case of a few years back, it is difficult to foresee just how much might be rehashed in the newspapers. In addition, I offered the suggestion that neither the Canadian Government nor the RCMP would be happy, most likely, if there were allegations that a "CIA agent" had been a link between a KGB officer and the Estonian community in Canada. [ ] was impressed by this last point.

6. [ ] expressed appreciation for our serious consideration of the proposed PNG action and asked if, in light of the possibility of awkward publicity, we would prefer that MURNIKOV not be PNG'd. I said we would not presume to tell them whether they should or should not proceed with the action, but we would like them to be aware of the potential

SECRET

100-447471-100

SECRET

embarrassment [ ] I also asked that we be kept informed as the PNG action proceeds.

7. [ ] confirmed that GRABBI has returned from his trip and has gone to Canada where he is currently (in the course of the present two or three days) being interviewed by the RCMP. A full report of that interview will be made available to us.

8. In the course of our conversation, I reiterated that GRABBI is not of operational interest to us and that we are not, and have not been, in operational touch with him. I acknowledged that we had looked him over a few years ago and decided against any involvement with him. I made no comment about the "International Advisory Committee."

[ ]  
Acting Asst. Chief, European Division  
for the British Commonwealth Region

A/EURBC: [ ] kp (15 Aug 69)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - E/BC/C  
1 - [ ]  
1 - [ ]  
1 - [ ]  
1 - [ ]  
1 - DC/SE/CI  
1 - SE/X/EU  
1 - C/CA/BI  
1 - SE/PO/A  
1 - Liaison file

BEST AVAILABLE COPY